

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-8, 10, 15-18, 20, 25-28 and 30 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11, 13, 16-19, 21, 23 and 26-29 have been amended. Claims 2, 5, 12, 15, 22 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, claims 1, 3-4, 6-11, 13-14, 15-21, 23-24 and 26-30 are presented for examination.

Specification

Please delete Paragraph [0001], titled "Cross Reference To Related Applications" in its entirety to overcome the Examiner's objection regarding informalities.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 22 and 22?? are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suito et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,014,167 ("Suito"), in view of Nakano et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,094,220 ("Nakano").

Claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suito et al., in view of Nakano et al., and in further view of Funayama et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,389,155 ("Funayama").

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the references. However, for the sake of expediting issuance of this case, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 11 and 21 to include those limitations indicated as

allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 11, and 21 and their dependent claims.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

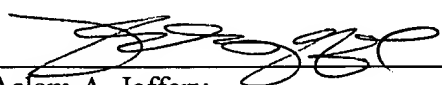
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 1.12.05


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